

LITERARY NOTES.

A "Young Folks' History of the Bible," by Miss Tocque, is nearly ready at D. Lothrop & Co.'s.

The next volume in the English Men of Letters series will be Mr. E. W. H. Myers's "Life of Wordsworth." Harper & Brothers will issue it as Wordsworth's. Harper & Brothers will issue it as Wordsworth's.

A new edition of Shakespeare is in preparation in England, the novelty of which will be illustrations by Gustave Doré. It is a question whether Shakespeare's exquisite and sane fancy is just the material for the great art necromancy to work upon.

The proceedings of the last reunion of the Army of the Potomac, held in Burlington, Vermont, last June, are printed in a handsome pamphlet volume, which may be had of the recording secretary of the Society, Colonel Horatio C. Kling, 115 Broadway.

Mr. Archibald Forbes has engaged to write the story of his personal adventures in the battle-fields of Europe and Africa for the young subscribers to *The Youth's Companion*. Mr. William Black will contribute a serial story to the same fortunate paper.

It now appears that the confiscation of Heine's poems in Berlin was limited to a "new, popular and complete edition" containing obnoxious poems which had been omitted from previous editions. Public decency, as well as political censorship, was outraged.

Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth, says *The New-Orleans Picayune*, stands charged with having written forty-two novels. They are to be published in a new and uniform edition. Put up in dry-goods boxes, they will make a beautiful present for some man east away on some lonely island.

The Grosvenor Gallery Library had 300 copies of "Endymion" in circulation two days after it was published. Lord Beaconsfield in appropriating the title of Keats's poem for his novel, did not give evidence for the first time of his taste in selecting from others. His "Job Thaumbeur" may be found in Colman's comedy of "John Bull."

Mr. J. W. Bentor has received M. Arsene Houssaye's beautiful quartet lutes of "Mohore, his Wife and his Daughter." The yellow cover is embellished with an etched portrait, and fine etchings are sprinkled liberally through the pages. It is a superb work. The edition is limited to 500 copies, which in Paris range in price from £2.00 to £100 francs.

Houghton, Mifflin & Co. will publish on Saturday a volume of essays by Mr. Theodore T. Munger, of North Adams, Mass., entitled "On the Threshold." It consists of talks to young people on purpose, thrift, self-reliance, the choice of companions, and other practical subjects. They will also publish new editions of Mr. James T. Fields' "Ballads and Other Verses," and Mr. Smedley's "Dream Children."

The London News chronicles Mr. Walt Whitman's purpose to publish a new book called "Celestial Plums Like." And adds: "At one time Walt Whitman was far better known, and looked upon as much more important, in England than in America, and our kinsmen in the States were occasionally a little annoyed at the way in which we went on about the great American poet. Of late, however, it would seem as if our enthusiasm had fallen off without that of America rising."

Mr. Kung Kai Chin has been applying himself, at the Chinese educational headquarters in Hartford, to the writing of a book of 900 pages, in which English idiomatic phrases and slang are compared with English translations of the Chinese way of expressing the same ideas. The volume will also comprise a list of Confucius, Chinese idioms and axioms, and a chronological list of emperors from the foundation of the first Chinese dynasty to the present time, as well as some account of the customs and legends of China. President Porter, of Yale, has seen proof-sheets of the book and commends it highly.

A correspondent sends to *The London World* the following conversation with Carlyle about the manuscript of "The French Revolution," to correct the statement that Mr. Carlyle had said the second draft of the book was better than the first: "Sitting one evening in the drawing-room of the house in Great Cheyne-row, Chelsea, self and Carlyle were in conversation upon general subjects, when I remarked, 'I have heard that the manuscript of "The French Revolution" was destroyed before going to the printers. Was that so?' Carlyle: 'Ay, ay, it was so.' Myself: 'What did you do under the circumstances?' Carlyle: 'For three days and nights I could neither eat nor sleep, but was like a dolt man!' Myself: 'But what did you do at last?' Carlyle: 'Well, I just went away into the country, and here he burst out into a fit of loud laughter, and then said, 'I did nothing for three months but read Marryat's novels,' and after a serious pause he remarked, 'I set to and wrote it all over again,' but in a melancholy tone concluded, 'I dinna think it's the same; no, I dinna think it's the same.'

Dr. Schliemann's great work, "Ilion: The City and the Country of the Trojans" (Harper & Brothers), has appeared, and if the public welcome has not been as enthusiastic in England and America as its merits deserve, this is probably due to a feeling that the new book would be built in great part upon the old one published five years ago under the title "Troy and its Remains." It must be said that the new book adds little of great value to the first account of the author's researches. But the two books are different in plan, and the new one brings new matter and the opinions of scholars to bear upon the subject. "Ilion" will never supplant "Troy" among scholars, for to them both volumes will be indispensable. The first book is a diary of the work of excavation at Hisarlik during 1871, 72 and '73—years in which the greatest treasure was found. "Ilion" contains nearly three times as much reading matter, although the two years' work in 1878 and 1879 brought comparatively little new material to the surface. Dr. Schliemann's general views underwent little change in the meantime. But in the second book he departs from the diary method of the first, and attempts to digest the whole subject by discussing the ruins of each city separately, beginning with the first or lowest and devoting a chapter to each of the seven, the "burnt city" of Homer being accounted the third from the bottom. The number of illustrations has been more than doubled in the new book, and important views and plans of the excavations have been added. The long preface by Professor Virchow and the numerous appendices by well-known scholars make the work more of a storehouse of learning, but distract the attention of the reader, who has enough to do to keep his bearings through Dr. Schliemann's heady up-dates, for the author cannot claim great excellence as a literary workman. The egotism that intrudes itself through the book is the egotism of success, and does not affect one disinterestedly, since the reader readily grants the author all he claims for himself and his work. He has not proved that he has discovered the Ilion of Homer. There is the conviction of intuition and the conviction of reason. Few readers of this splendid volume will close its pages without the conviction of intuition that they have been visiting the city of Troy and the scenes of Homer's immortal song. And those who yield only to the conviction of reason will admit with Professor Virchow that the excavations of Hisarlik would have had an imperishable value even if the Ilion had never been sung.

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